THE SHAKERITE

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Iranian Student at Shaker Speaks on Shah, Ayatollah

by Brett Krantz

One of Shaker's foreign students, **Shoja Nabavi**, is a native Iranian. He was born in Tehran, Iran, and is presently enrolled in the 11th grade here at Shaker. Shoja is a Shiite Moslem who lived only eight minutes away from the American embassy.

When asked about his future, he said that he plans to go back to Iran after he completes his high-school education. He then plans to return to this country to receive a college education and, later, return to Iran permanently.

Before the holiday break, during the height of the **Iranian Crisis**, Shoja answered questions concerning the Shah, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and the American hostages being held in Tehran.

Shah Denied Human Rights

Shoja feels that he understands the Shah's situation just before he was overthrown. To the outside world, it seemed as if the Shah were a tremendous ruler. Iran was prospering economically and politically.

However, according to Shoja, things were not so bright on the inside. During his reign, the Shah withheld the Iranian people's basic human rights, asserted Shoja, and did not allow freedom of speech or freedom of the press.

Shoja also said that if anyone spoke out against the Shah, he was seized and beaten by the Shah's secret police. One of Shojah's cousins was beaten so badly by the police that he required surgery

Shoja blames the Shah for Iranian dependence on American food products. Before the Shah stepped in, he affirmed, Iran was 80 percent self-sufficient for all of its food needs. Yet the Shah gave money to the businessmen to "Americanize" Iranian industry.

Crimes Outweighed Good

Shoja feels that the economic gains under the Shah did not make up for the human rights violations committed by his regime. "The Shah helped my country financially, but he **did** steal our money," Shoja said.

Shoja believes that by becoming a puppet of the United States, the Shah put an economic vice around Iran; now Iran needs other countries, including America, to survive.

Khomeini Behind Seizure

Shoja sees the Ayatollah Khomeini playing a big part in the seizure of the embassy. He feels that no matter what is said or done, the Ayatollah had a hand in engineering the take-over.

He sees no reason for seizing the embassy other than Khomeini's obsession with the return of the deposed Shah. Shoja is firm, however, in his belief that "no matter who was right, keeping hostages is not the way to go about solving a problem."

Captives Should be Freed

A point which Shoja stresses is that the hostages should be returned unharmed. He feels that we should all realize that all Khomeini has to do is give the word and the prisoners will be released.

Shoja is also quick to point out that the Americans should not have sent in spies, because, according to him, under international law, "it is not allowed to send in any government agent into a country with false diplomatic papers."

Soviets Will Block U.S.

Shoja feels that the Ayatollah is helping the people by aiding them in arming themselves. He feels that Iran and Khomeini are in a safe position because "the Russians would not let the U.S. get back into Iran."

Shoja said that he thinks the true reason that Khomeini wants the Shah back is not what he did to Iran but his fear that the United States will once again try to put the Shah back into power.

One thing that Shoja emphasizes is that Khomeini is a religious leader and not a political one. Shoja believes that the politicking should be left to politicians and the worshipping to the religious leaders.

Artists Earn Honors in Regional Contest

by Liffie Sopher

Fifteen Shaker students have earned recognition in the **Regional Scholastic Art Exhibit.** They had their work on display at the **Cleveland Institute of Art,** the regional sponsor, January 6-13. In addition to having their work exhibited, nine students won Gold Key Awards, and three are having their work sent to New York for final judging in the National Scholastic Art Awards.

The national contest is sponsored by Scholastic Magazines Inc. with co-sponsors Eastman Kodak Co., Hallmark Cards Inc., and Strathmore Paper Co. The regional art exhibits give students the opportunity to gain local recognition. Students whose entries are selected to go to New York have the chance to win cash prizes and scholarships to universities and art schools all over the country.

Judges for the Scholastic Art Awards are teachers and artists who are involved in art at the high school level. They judged entries in the categories of painting, drawing, printmaking, design, three-dimensional art, and photography. An important requirement of the competition was that the entries be original because the emphasis of the program is creativity.

The three students having their artwork sent to New York are **Nancy Goldston** and **Amy Hise** for graphic design and **Indre Liutkus** for textile design.

Winning Gold Keys were **Jeffrey Baumoel** for photography, **Willie Bell** for tie dye, **Susan Berger** for photography, **Dieter Feichtinger** for graphic design, **Laurie Greenberg** for pottery, **Marcia Hanson** for textile design and printmaking, **Nancy Pevaroff** for watercolors, and **Eric Smith** for graphic design.

Winning a place in the show and a Certificate of Merit were **Terri Hitzig** for acrylics, **Janice Hogan** for graphic design, and **Cathy Lampl** for photography.

Editorial

Keep the Level System

At a PTA meeting and a school board meeting in November, parents voiced their concern about the level system in the Shaker schools. Some people feel that tracking causes segregation in the schools and feel that the level system should be abolished. To abolish this system would be to damage severely the educational excellence of the Shaker schools.

Because aptitude and motivation within any group, all people do not or cannot learn at the same rate. The level system allows every student to achieve at his highest possible level.

Placing students of all abilities in a class together creates a situation which is not good for anyone. A teacher of such a class would tend to teach at the lowest level to be sure that every person in the class understands the material. Such a practice surely inhibits the growth and education of the students who are able to go at a faster pace. Some teachers in the same situation would teach at the average or highest level. This method would cause problems for at least half of the class. A student who cannot understand what is being taught to him usually becomes frustrated and does not try at all because he feels that there is no hope of understanding.

Though Shaker has a good level system, there are some reforms which must be considered. If a tracking system is to be effective, it must not become too narrow. A student should have the option of dropping down a level if the material becomes too difficult, without dropping the subject. On example is the math program at Shaker. A person who transfers out of Advanced Placement math after the tenth or eleventh grade runs out of math courses in the twelfth grade. The only way to study calculus is to be in the A P math program; however, because of the difficulty of calculus, it seems that there would be a large number of students ready to take it on a lower level. Obviously, it is not possible to provide all courses at all level, but students should not be forced to drop a subject because they become trapped in a level which is too difficult for them.

It is not necessary for every subject taught in the school to be tracked. It is good to have classes which are mostly discussion, such as many history classes, untracked so that students have the opportunity to listen to each other's ideas and learn from each other.

The level system at Shaker is one of the major reasons for the school system's reputation for excellence. There should be no question that such a system is the best way to provide a good education for all students regardless of their ability.

Students,

You ask the question – So, why is the library closed a portion of periods 4, 5 and 6?

Our library is a place for quiet study and research. IT IS NOT A SOCIAL CENTER. Unfortunately, some Shaker students apparently don't understand this when it involves the lunch hour.

True, you do need to relax and just talk; however, the library is not the place.

The library's reason for being is to assit you as a student and to protect the rights of those students who want to use our library purposefully during the lunch hours as it is intended.

Our guidelines for the lunch periods are simple:

1. The library will be closed to students approximately 25 minutes after the beginning of periods 4, 5 and 6:

	Regular		Adjusted
4	11:25	4	11:15
5	12.25	5	12.05
6	1:15	6	12:55

2. Students who come to the library to talk will loose the privilege of the room and will be asked to leave.

3. When a student chooses to leave the library during the lunch periods, the student leaves for the remainder of that period.

We have your best interest at heart! This is what it's all about!

Ms. Libby

Opinion

Out in the Cold?

by Craig Beresford

The librarians felt that the library was becoming too much of a social area during lunchtime, so they instituted a rule whereby the library would be closed after each lunch period was twenty minutes underway. A flood of protest immediately ensued. Students circulated petitions, blocked doorways, and thought unkind thoughts about the librarians.

The protests of the students pointed out a major problem in Shaker – the lack of a suitable place for students to socialize during their lunch periods. Until the twenty-minute rule was instituted, they had gravitated to the library. Now that the library is closed, however, they have been figuratively left out in the cold. The cafeteria wouldn't do – it is often too messy and loud, and most of it is cleared of students halfway through sixth period. Nor would the noon-time movies – they are costly, and one can't really socialize while watching a film.

So what is to be done about this problem? One solution would be to make the Social Room more of a social room by motivating students to head there at lunchtime. Another possibility would be to set aside a portion of the library as a social area; for example, the small rooms off to the side (when not being used for college conferences), or the upstairs section. Until something is done to provide students with a suitable social area, they will only become more upset with the library.

Opinion

Too Many Barriers

by Miriam Pickus

In his poem "Mending Wall", Robert Frost wrote, "Good fences make good neighbors." This phrase is often quoted as one of Frost's Beliefs. Nothing could be farther from the truth. "Mending Walls" showed that Frost believed no fences make good neighbors. Frost wrote that poem many years ago, but his point is still valid today.

Today, there are too many "fences". People are categorized and separated in every way imaginable. Prejudices are easy to form when there are so many ways to discriminate. We are too eager to label others as rich or poor, old or young, gay or straight, ugly or good-looking, communist or democratic. The list of divisions is endless, and therefore, so are the problems.

If this differentiating continues, we will continue to encounter large difficulties in our world. Instead of categorizing, we have to realize that the population is not 40 percent black - 60 percent white; it is 100 percent human race! Just pointing out differences between people is furthering prejudices. Until everyone sees that Russians are just as much human beings as Americans, that the rich are just as much human beings as the poor, the constant fighting and intolerance will go on. This fighting is not just international warfare, but also neighbor against neighbor battles. We must stop looking out only for ourselves. With the population growth and the shortages of many resources, sharing and understanding must become the key words. For the survival of the human race, the "me decade" of the seventies must yield to the "we decade" of the eighties.

THE SHAKERITE

The SHAKERITE is a tri-weekly publication of the newspaper staff at Shaker Heights High School, 15911 Aldersyde Drive, Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120.

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Speech Team Wins Laurels

by Andrea Nagy

The Shaker Debate and Speech Team has continued its success and upheld its high reputation in the month of December, performing well in Student Congress, extemporaneous speaking, debate, and duet acting.

On December 1 a Student Congress was held at **Brush High School.** Karen Thornton and Kathryn Kleiman were outstanding speakers and Kathryn Kleiman was also the best presiding officer. Michael Scharf presented a bill to decriminalize marijuana.

On December 8 **Normandy High School** hosted a debate and speech tournament. Mike Scharf and Matt Wall placed first in Varsity debate out of sixteen teams and Rob Kowal placed sixth in men's extemporaneous speaking. Brian McCann and David Pogue won second place in duet acting with "The Gospel Truth" by Peter Cook and Dudley Moore.

The following Saturday, December 15, the debaters and speakers attended a tournament at **Rocky River High School.** Two debate pairs - John and David Biek, and Karen Swenson and Paula Tuffin - tied for third place in the "A" (Varsity) division, both winning two out of three debates. Rob Kowal spoke well in extemporaneous speaking, missing first place by one quality point. Amy Silberman, representing Shaker for the first time in Prose and Poetry won third place, and Brian McCann and David Pogue received the first-place trophy for duet acting.

Girl Cagers Start Slowly

by Heather Dean

The Girls' Varsity Basketball team has continued to play sluggishly this season, as the 1-5 record indicates. In face of their past performance, the girls are making every effort to improve their skills.

On December 1, the Shaw team taught the girls a lesson in good fundamental basketball. The final score was 75-40 in Shaw's favor. Monica Davis held the offense together during the game and scored an awesome 18 points.

The match at Garfield on December 5 was a hard-fought but unsuccessful game for Shaker with a close final score of 50-48. On offense, Lelia True scored an impressive 18 points, while Monica Davis helped with 9 points.

On December 8, the visiting Parma team lost to the Shaker squad by the score of 74-64. Sandy Lee and Lelia True logged 17 points each. Monica Davis registered 16 points and Kris Rosselli added nine points.

Our gals visited Valley Forge on December 12. They caught up with the Patriots in the fourth quarter, but ended up losing. The final tally was 47-39. Lelia True scored 12 points and Kris Rosselli contributed 10, while Sandy Lee added 9 points.

Arch-rival Cleveland Heights High played a pain-stricken Shaker squad on December 15. In the first quarter, the score was 7-14 in Heights' favor. The Raiders displayed a good fast break and led the game by a score of 30-25 in the second quarter. During the third quarter, Kris Rosselli went down hard and sprained her ankle. The team was able to hang on, though, and it kept its lead with a score of 40-38. Monica Davis was then injured in the game. In the fourth quarter, Heights took advantage of the weakened Raiders and won by a score of 65-52.

The girls went to Lakewood minus two injured starters. This deficiency resulted in a one-sided game. The final score was 67-17.

DECA Shows Noon Movies

by Dan Rosenbaum

Before winter vacation the **Distributive Education Club** (DECA) headed by **Mark Leimsieder,** presented a film during each of the lunch periods on a trial basis. The movie, "**Fantastic Voyage,**" starring Steven Boyd and Raquel Welch ran December 10 through the 14. Each day 20 minutes of the film was shown and the admission price was 25 cents a day.

This program was recommended to DECA by a newly formed group called **Shaker Too,** a coalition of administrators and activity advisors coordinated by Mrs. Nancy Lerner. The idea, however, didn't work well. The lack of interest was probably due to the fact that the movie had been shown on television a few times previously. DECA is hoping to start this program again second semester and to continue it regularly if interest is shown. The idea of showing a film every lunch period is to give students something to do.

Drama Department Readies Next Play

by Dan Schwartz

The drama department at Shaker is now in the process of preparing the play "**Springs Awakening -- A Tragedy of Childhood**" which was written by **Franz Wedekind.** This play will be presented March 13-15.

At this time, only the preliminary tryouts have occurred. These tryouts have produced the two male leads, **Steve Moss** and **Ted Marcoux.** These two will play the parts of **Melchior** and **Moritz** respectively. **James Thornton,** drama director, said that the rest of the cast will be chosen after further tryouts, which will take place after the semester break. Anyone is welcome to try out.

The play will be directed by Mr. Thornton. The play was written in 1906, but is continually being performed. In 1977 it won an Off-Broadway award. It also received acclaim when it was presented by the Yale Drama Department. As well as when it was performed professionally in Chicago.

The play is set in 1893 and is based on the problems of a group of high school students. It is considered a difficult play and should be a challenge to perform.

FINALS SCHEDULE

JANUARY

Tuesday, 22
8:30-11:30 a.m. Mathematics
1:00-4:00 p.m. English

Wednesday, 23
8:30-11:30 a.m. Sciences
1:00-4:00 p.m. Languages and Accounting

Thursday, 24
8:30-11:30 a.m. Social Studies
1:00-4:00 p.m. Business Principles and Conflicts

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Focus On Film

by Ann Walton

Robert Benson, writer and director of **Kramer VS Kramer,** has succeeded in creating possibly one of the finest movies of 1979. Through a brilliant cast, marvelous direction, and incredible attention to detail, Benson has given us a movie that is so emotional yet so realistic that we are truely able to immerse ourselves in the painful divorce and subsequent child-custody case that the Kramers endure.

The cast is nothing less than wonderful. Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep play the divorced couple Ted and Joanna; Justin Henry plays their six-year old son Billy; and Jane Alexander plays the friend of the couple who is recently divorced herself. Each of these artists gives us a performance that seems to go further than mere acting. Perhaps the most amazing facet of the movie is that each actor and actress becomes real for us. Justin Henry cries like a real little boy – no Shirley Temple crocodile tears for this kid. Meryl Streep find herself through analysis in California – a situation absurdly cliche yet paradoxically more realistic because of the cliche. Jane Alexander looks and acts exactly as we expect a loving friend to act – she is especially good in the courtroom when trying to speak for Ted. Dustin Hoffman gives, as always, an unusually fine and believable performance. By the end of the movie, we feel we have known Billy since birth and the rest since grade school, at least. These four characters become a part of our life people we will always care for.

Much of the credit for the fine performances of the four main characters must go to the director, Robert Benson. Benson's script and Benson's direction transformed a potentially B-rated tearjerker into a near masterpiece. Benson kept the action moving so that the plight of the Kramers never stopped.

Bensons terrific attention to detail further upgrades the movie from a tear-jerker to a masterpiece. If you have ever lived in New York City or even have been in Manhattan, you will most likely recognize the places and people in this film. The Kramers apartment is perfect; each of the characters wears clothing that is sufficiently trendy; Billy plays with the right toys for a six-year old, and so on.

Kramer vs. Kramer has got to be one of the best movies of 1979. The story is well-written, the acting is marvelous, the action is captivating, and the attention to detail is incredible. Don't miss this gem.

Quick Cuts

by Craig Beresford

Star Trek-The Motion Picture

The old crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise is reunited to stop a destructive force headed straight for Earth. This is a good film, especially if you are already a fan of the "Star Trek" series. The film does slow down in a couple of spots due to an over-abundance of footage of spaceships flying around, but if you can forgive that, it's worth seeing.

The Jerk

The old story of a man who goes from rags to riches to rags to riches. This is Steve Martin's first starring role and the film is pure Steve Martin – that is, loud and unsubtle, but often hilarious. If you like Steve and need a few laughs, catch this film.

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The Agony of Defeat

by Craig Beresford

If you get depressed reading books devoted to other people's successes, then **The Incomplete Book of Failures** by Stephen Pile is just what you need. Billed as "the official handbook of the Not-Terribly-Good Club of Great Britain," this hilarious book describes some of the greatest failures in world history. The following are a few examples of the "un-success" stories within:

– In early 1978, an elderly lady in South London called the local fire department to rescue her cat from a tree. The firemen arrived and quickly retrieved the animal. The lady was so grateful that she invited them all in for tea. Driving off later, with fond farewells completed, they ran over the cat and killed it.

– In 1964, while breaking into a house in the French village of Lachelle, a burglar began to feel the pangs of hunger, and decided to head for the refrigerator. There, he found some cheese, biscuits, and three bottles of champagne. After his snack, he felt somewhat sleepy, and decided to take a little nap and digest his meal in comfort. He was arrested the next morning fast asleep in the spare bedroom.

– On a flight across the country in 1978, an unidentified man rose from his seat, drew a gun, and took the stewardess hostage.

"Take me to Detroit," he demanded.

"We're already going to Detroit," the stewardess replied.

"Oh ... good," he said, and sat back down.

– During a 1974 screening of **The Exorcist** in Rio de Janeiro the audience became completely distracted by a rat scampering to and fro before the screen. Matters became even worse when an usherette appeared and pursued the rat with a mop. The audience became annoyed and began to shout, "Get them off!" Misconstruing the audience's wishes, the usherette stunned the rat with her mop and proceeded to take all her clothes off. It was while dancing naked in the projector's light that she noticed the theater being cleared by the police.

– Probably the worst traveller's aid ever published was an English-Portuguese phrasebook entitled **English as She is Spoke.** It seems that the author of this book did not possess an English-Portuguese dictionary. He did, however, possess English-French and French-Portuguese dictionaries, and so he cross-translated. Some of the "familiar phrases" which he felt the Portuguese holidaymaker might find useful were:

Nothing some money, nothing of Swiss
The stone as roll not heap up not foam
Exculpate my by your brother's
The dog than bark not bite
To craunch a marmoset

Swimmers Train Hard

by Mark Genger

The Shaker Heights Red Raider swim team, coached by Peter Lynn, is undefeated with a 4-0 record. Their victories were over Maple Heights, Shaw, Cleveland Heights, and Midpark. Their latest victim was Midpark, where Shaker prevailed with a 108-62 tally. The swim team has worked very hard this year and the boys' dedication shows in the meets. The swimmers get up every morning, except the days they have meets, and swim from 6:30 to 7:30 at Woodbury. After school, the swimmers begin swimming at 3:45 and quit at 6:00. Mr. Lynn has them do about 9,000 yards a day, which is 450 laps. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the swimmers work out in the weight room for an hour and a half before swimming. The swim team also works out on Saturday mornings at Byron from 9:30 to 11:30. On eight of the 13 days of winter vacation, the boys swam at Woodbury from 9:30 to 11:30 in the mornings and from 4:30 to 6:00 in the afternoons. Upcoming meets are with Lakewood, Cleveland Heights, and the Bedford relays, so come out and cheer our loyal, hard-working swimmers on.